
BILL NO.: House Bill 572
TITLE: Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender-Inclusive Signage
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
DATE: February 16, 2022
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

House Bill 572 would require any single-occupancy bathroom in a place of public accommodation or in a public building, to be marked with gender-inclusive signage, rather than an indication that the restroom may only be used by a specific gender.

Restrooms that are accessible to all provide a welcoming space for everyone, including nursing mothers, individuals with disabilities, and parents of young children. They also protect gender neutral and transgender citizens from harassment. Non-gendered restrooms already exist in many places, and are required in Baltimore City, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, among others. Complying with the bill is easy and offers a practical way to make all feel welcome and safe.

While this action may seem small and inconsequential, this bill will build a more inclusive and affirming community for everyone, and in particular transgender and non-binary Marylanders. As such, the Women's Law Center of Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 572.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women. It advocates for the rights of women through legal assistance to individuals and strategic initiatives to achieve systemic change, working to ensure physical safety, economic security, and bodily autonomy for women in Maryland.